

Editor
DWIGHT L. WILBUR, M.D.

Assistant to the Editor
ROBERT F. EDWARDS

For information on preparation of
manuscript, see advertising page 2

Policy Committee—Editorial Board

JOHN G. MORRISON, M.D., San Leandro
MALCOLM C. TODD, M.D., Long Beach
WILLIAM F. QUINN, M.D., Los Angeles
JOSEPH F. BOYLE, M.D., Los Angeles
ALBERT G. MILLER, M.D., San Mateo
HELEN B. WEYRAUCH, M.D.,
San Francisco
DWIGHT L. WILBUR, M.D., San Francisco

**California
Medicine**



EDITORIAL

The Shaping of Medicine's Future

WE WERE IN PRESS before we could know anything of what was said and done at the Western Regional Conference on Future Directions and Decisions in Medical Care, which was held November 10 to 12, but we firmly agree with Dr. John G. Morrison, president of the California Medical Association, who said of this meeting of leaders of the medical profession that it is "one of the most challenging opportunities ever presented to the health care professions to plan for and to provide comprehensive health care services to the public."

The conference, which was organized by the California Medical Education and Research Foundation, was billed as "regional" but it is safe to predict that it is only the first of many of its kind, for the topics of discussion deal with questions that are of vital concern to the medical profession and allied health care personnel under Public Law 89-479—the "partnership for health" law for promoting comprehensive health planning.

At the conference, outstandingly able and well-informed leaders in the ways and means of providing health care were gathered at Chandler, Arizona,

to participate in panels and workshops on "Goals and Objectives of the Medical Profession," "The Components of Comprehensive Health Planning and the Coordination of Services and Facilities," "Relationship of Federal, State and Local Governments to PL 89-749" and "Analysis and Evaluation of Planning Processes, Based upon Previous Experiences and Expectations of PL 89-749."

Most of the participants were from the Western United States, although some of the speakers were officials of interested departments of the Federal Government, and there were also representatives of the American Medical Association in attendance.

That the conference was "regional" rather than national in scope was largely because the idea for such a meeting found ready acceptance among leaders in the CMA when Dr. James Wharton of the U.S. Public Health Service proposed it to them in 1966. Their thoughts already had been turning to just such questions, and the answers already were being sought through the searching studies of the association's Bureau of Research and the work of the Commission on Community Health Services, the Committee on the Role of Medicine in Society, the Commission on Allied Health Professions and others. Dr. James C. MacLaggan, then president of the CMA, grasped the opportunity to hold a comprehensive meeting for a broad give-and-take of information and formulation of thought. Murray Klutch, the association's director of research, set about financing and planning the conference and Dr. Morrison, who succeeded to the presidency of CMA during the organizational stage, gave con-